

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 67

Introduced by Senator Speier

(Coauthors: Senators Cox, Kehoe, Kuehl, Machado, and Romero)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bermudez, DeVore, Evans, Frommer, Garcia, Lieu, Jones, Karnette, Laird, Lieber, Maze, Nakanishi, Niello, Pavley, Saldana, and Spitzer)

January 5, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 67, as amended, Speier. Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.

A resolution recognizing April 16 through April 22, 2006, as “Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.”

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The 550,995 children born in California every
- 2 year are our most vulnerable citizens; and
- 3 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes
- 4 that babies, infants and toddlers are especially vulnerable to
- 5 “Shaken Baby Syndrome”, the pattern of injury that results from
- 6 an act of violent shaking by a parent or caregiver, but that
- 7 children as old as five years of age can be injured by such acts of
- 8 shaking; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome and other inflicted head
- 10 trauma is now recognized as a leading cause of child fatalities;
- 11 and

1 WHEREAS, Researchers at the University of California,
2 Irvine report that children between the ages of birth and five
3 months are at the greatest risk of injury and death due to abuse or
4 neglect; and

5 WHEREAS, A 2003 report in the Journal of the American
6 Medical Association surveyed the incidence of Shaken Baby
7 Syndrome and estimates that an average of 300 children will die
8 and 600 to 1200 more children will be injured, with many cases
9 resulting in severe and permanent disabilities, including loss of
10 vision, brain damage, paralysis, and seizures; and

11 WHEREAS, Medical professionals believe that thousands
12 more cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome are being misdiagnosed or
13 not detected; and

14 WHEREAS, It is estimated that during an average year in
15 California, nearly 230 children under five years of age will
16 require medical attention because of inflicted head injuries, of
17 which two-thirds are likely to occur in babies or infants younger
18 than one year of age; and

19 WHEREAS, These inflicted injuries are usually precipitated
20 when a parent or caregiver is not prepared to cope with the
21 frustration and anger that can result from the inconsolable crying
22 of an infant or unrealistic expectations of a child's behavior; and

23 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent of infants
24 experience episodes of colic, characterized by inconsolable
25 crying for more than three hours a day for more than three weeks,
26 meaning that every year between 55,000 and 100,000 Californian
27 babies may have such sustained periods of crying, with
28 commensurate stress for their caregivers; and

29 WHEREAS, A survey conducted by Prevent Child Abuse
30 America found that one half of Americans with children believe
31 parents do find themselves in situations where they are afraid
32 they might abuse or neglect their child; and

33 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome and other inflicted
34 injuries are totally preventable; and

35 WHEREAS, The medical costs of treating Shaken Baby
36 Syndrome cases and the costs of rehabilitation services to
37 surviving infants, may exceed more than one million dollars
38 (\$1,000,000) for the care of a single disabled child during the
39 first few years of life; and

1 WHEREAS, The costs of those services are primarily paid by
2 the State of California Medicaid program, which in 2000 paid for
3 42.4 percent of births in the state, and by private health insurers,
4 resulting in higher taxes and health insurance costs for all
5 citizens of the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome cases further impact
7 costs to communities in many ways, including the investigation
8 and prosecution of SBS cases, the tragic disruption of families,
9 and the special education needs that are frequently required by
10 those who have survived even modest head traumas; and

11 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention programs
12 have demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger
13 of shaking young children and how they can help protect their
14 child from injury can effect a significant reduction in the number
15 of Shaken Baby Syndrome cases; and

16 WHEREAS, Training and education for child care providers,
17 as well as our high school and middle school students, who are
18 frequently employed as paid or unpaid babysitters, is also
19 effective in helping keep young children safe from injury; and

20 WHEREAS, The minimal costs and effort involved in such
21 educational and preventive programs avert enormous medical
22 and disability costs and untold grief for many families; and

23 WHEREAS, Efforts to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome are
24 supported by numerous ~~groups~~ *organizations* such as the
25 American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Exchange Club,
26 the Kiwanis, the Children's Trust Fund, Parents' Action, Healthy
27 Starts Coalition, as well as advocacy groups formed by parents
28 and relatives of children who have been killed or injured by
29 shaking, such as the National Shaken Baby Coalition, the Shaken
30 Baby Association, the SKIPPER Initiative, and the Shaken Baby
31 Alliance; and

32 WHEREAS, The California Senate and Assembly strongly
33 support efforts to protect our children, especially by education
34 and awareness activities that enable parents to keep their children
35 safe from injury; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
37 *thereof concurring*, That the California Senate and the Assembly
38 recognize the week of April 16 through April 22, 2006 as
39 "Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week" in the State of
40 California; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the California Senate and the House request
2 that the Governor proclaim the week of April 16 through April
3 22, 2006 as “Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week” in the
4 State of California; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the California Senate and the Assembly
6 encourage the Legislature and the Governor to undertake all
7 practicable efforts to educate new parents, child care providers,
8 foster and adoptive parents, babysitters and others who care for
9 our children about Shaken Baby Syndrome, including the causes
10 and consequences of shaking injuries, the need to be prepared to
11 cope with frustration and anger, and the need to educate all other
12 caregivers of a child about the danger of shaking and ways they
13 can help protect that child from injury; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
15 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.